

COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSE UNITS IN INDIA - A REGION-WISE COMPARATIVE STUDY

ANDUKURI RAJ SHRAVANTHI¹ & K. MAHENDRAN²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural and Rural Management,
Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

²Professor, Department of Agricultural and Rural Management,
Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Cold chains are essential for extending shelf life and reduce transport bottlenecks during peak period of production. The Indian cold storage market is valued at Rs. 117 billion and is expected to reach Rs. 558 billion by the end of 2015. Eleven per cent of world's total vegetables production is accounted by India alone but India's share in global vegetable trade is only 1.7%. To examine the cold storage warehouse status in India, a region-wise comparative analysis based on secondary data has been carried out. The collected data was grouped region-wise and analysed using simple percentage analysis. Results showed that the concentration of cold storage warehouses was higher in the Northern region. Capacity of cold storage warehouses for storing potatoes was largest (74.73 percent) followed by multipurpose cold storages (22.24 percent). In all the four regions, concentration as well as capacity of private cold storage warehouses was highest. The overall storage capacity of cold storage available in the country cannot be considered adequate. There are number of gaps in India's cold chain right from postharvest handling to maintaining proper temperature throughout the cold chain. These requirements can only be fulfilled with an intervention of private sector, and public-private partnerships.

KEYWORDS: Cold Storage Warehouses, Indian Cold Storage Sector, Cold Chain Industry, Cold Stores